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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/034,709	12/27/2001	Jacques Debiez	2001-074-TOU	1510

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EXAMINER

SHIFERAW, ELENIA

ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
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2136

DATE MAILED: 03/18/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

10/034,709

Applicant(s)

DEBIEZ ET AL.

Examiner

Eleni A Shiferaw

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-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 27 December 2001.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-10 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____.
- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____.
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: _____.

Detailed Action

1. Claims 1-10 are presented for examination.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112

2. Claims 7-10 rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.
3. Claims 7-10 recites the limitation "program medium" in the first lines of each dependent claims. There is insufficient antecedent basis for this limitation in the claim.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

4. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

5. Claims 1-10 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Blandford (Patent Number: 5,347,579).

As per claims 1,6, Blandford teaches a method/system of providing a secure time reference when storing data to a medium using write once read many (WORM) protection, wherein the data may be written once to the medium, read many times from the medium, but not erased, modified, or overwritten, the method comprising:

receiving a message for storing to the medium (Blandford Fig. 1 No. 124, and col. 14 lines 37-50);

determining a message digest based on the message (Blandford Fig. 2 No. 240, col. 6 lines 13-25);

establishing a digital time stamping service having a private key and a public key, and capable of generating a published time (Blandford Col. 17 lines 3-22 and lines 49-55, fig. 24 No. 726, and fig. 22 No. 608);

appending the published time from the digital time stamping service to the message digest to create a timestamp (Blandford Fig. 18 No. 534, col. 14 lines 48-50, and col. 17 lines 15-22);

digitally signing the timestamp with the digital time stamping service private key to create a digital signature (Blandford Fig. 18 No. 536, col. 14 lines 50-57, and col. 17 lines 15-22); and

storing the message, the timestamp, and the digital signature to the medium using write once read many (WORM) protection (Blandford Fig. 18 No. 544, col. 2 lines 59-63, and col. 3 lines 8-16).

As per claims 2, and 7, Blandford teaches the method/program medium wherein digitally signing further comprises:

determining a timestamp digest based on the timestamp (Blandford col. 6 lines 13-25 and fig. 18 No. 534); and

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encrypting the timestamp digest with the digital time stamping service private key
(Blandford Fig. 18 No. 542, and col. 14 lines 48-64).

As per claims 3 and 8, Blandford teaches the method/program medium further comprising:

storing the digital time stamping service public key to the medium using write once read
many (WORM) protection (Blandford Col. 17 lines 53-55 and col. 4 lines 25-45).

As per claims 4 and 9, Blandford teaches the method/program medium wherein the digital time
stamping service has a public key certificate, the method further comprising:

storing the digital time stamping service public key certificate to the medium using write
once read many (WORM) protection (Blandford Fig. 18 No. 534, 536, 542, and 544, and col. 14
48-64).

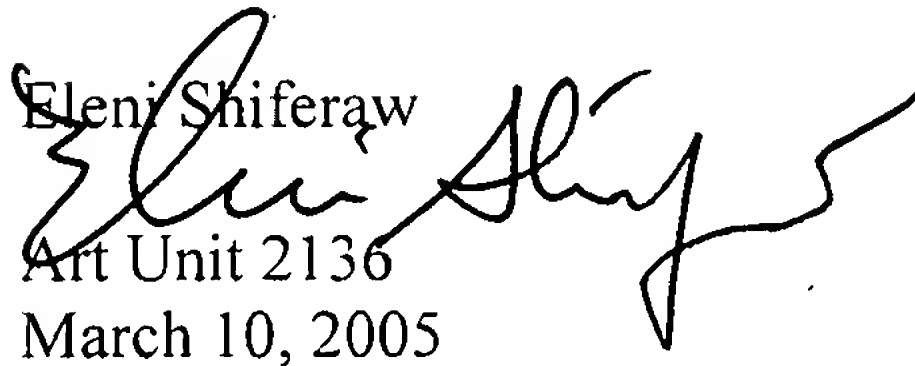
As per claims 5 and 10, Blandford teaches the method/program medium wherein the medium is a
magnetic storage medium (Blandford Col. 4 lines 32-41).

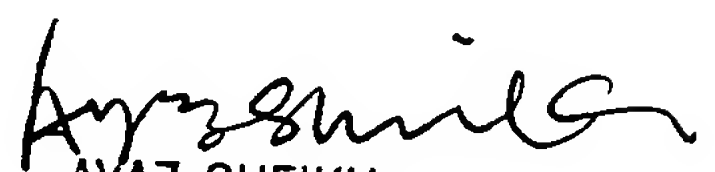
6. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the
examiner should be directed to Eleni A Shiferaw whose telephone number is 571-272-3867. The
examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Fri 8:00am-5:00pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's
supervisor, Ayaz R Sheikh can be reached on 571-272-3795. The fax phone number for the
organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

Eleni Shiferaw

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March 10, 2005


AYAZ SHEIKH
SUPERVISORY PATENT EXAMINER
TECHNOLOGY CENTER 2100